

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 10, 2017

The Honorable James N. Mattis
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Mr. Secretary:

During a televised press conference on Thursday, August 10, 2017, President Trump said that he had been “doing the military a great favor” when he announced, via Twitter, that the government would not “accept or allow [...] transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the US military.” The president has since directed you to implement a form of that policy.

We request information about what discussions or correspondence between the White House and the Pentagon, if any, led President Trump to make his assertion. If senior military or Department of Defense personnel asked that the president ban transgender individuals from military service, we request access to any letters, e-mails, telephone transcripts, meeting logs and minutes, or other materials that document such requests. If the Department has records of any other discussions that might have justified the president’s claim, we request to see those materials, as well.

We seek access to these materials in order to determine whether the president, his national security team, and military leaders are actively coordinating policy with one another, or whether the president’s transgender ban announcement reflected a breakdown in communication. As you know, clear communication between the White House and the Pentagon is essential to our nation’s security.

We thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to receiving your reply.

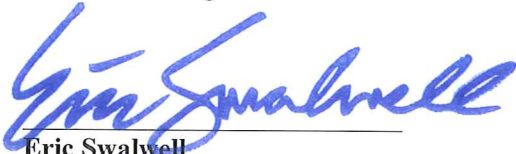
Sincerely,



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



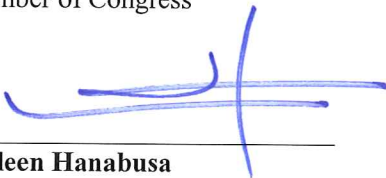
Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



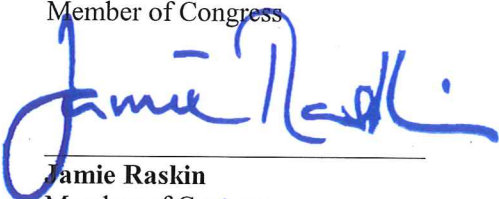
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



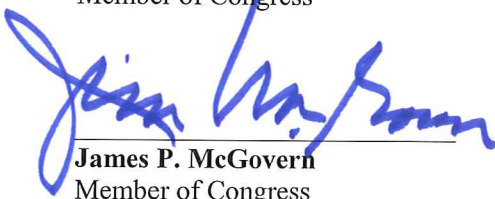
Val Demings
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



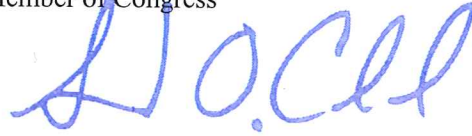
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



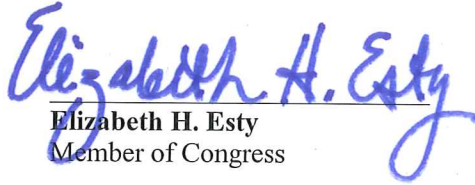
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



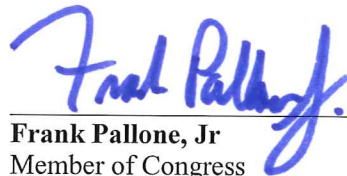
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



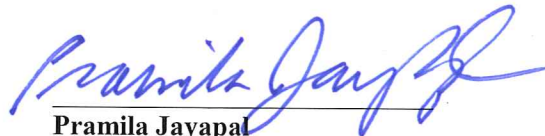
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



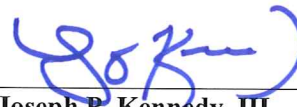
Frank Pallone, Jr
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



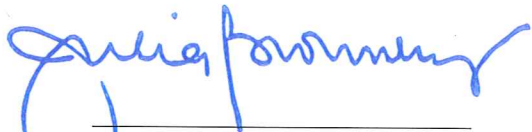
Charlie Crist
Member of Congress





Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

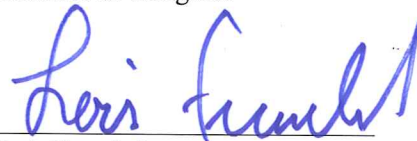


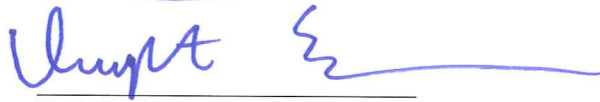
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

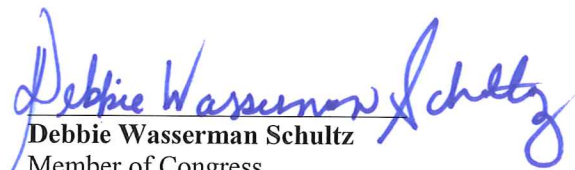

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

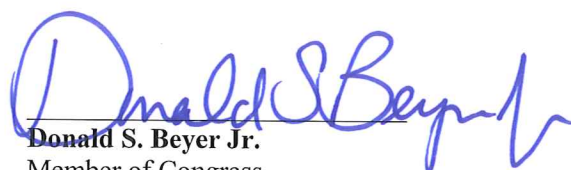

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress


Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

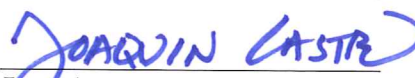

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

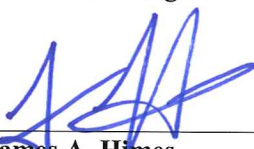

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress


Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

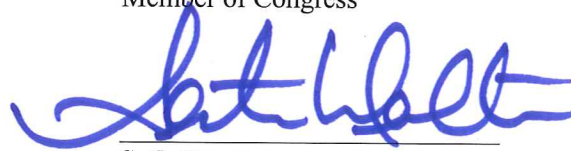

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

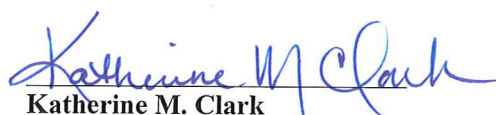

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress


James A. Himes
Member of Congress


Grace Meng
Member of Congress


Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress


Seth Moulton
Member of Congress


Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Anthony Brown
Member of Congress



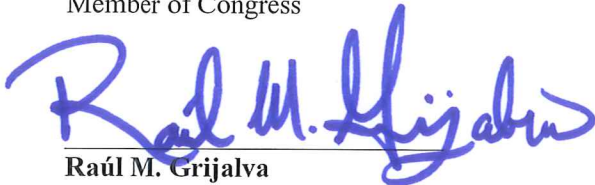
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



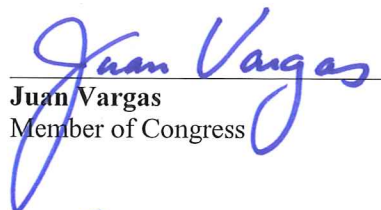
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



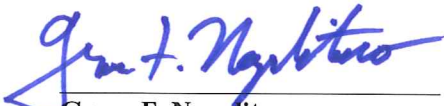
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



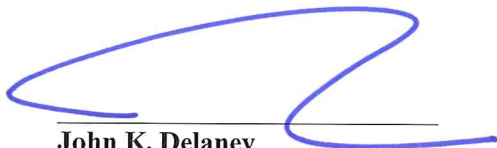
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



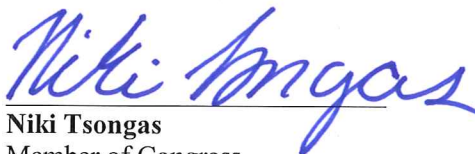
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



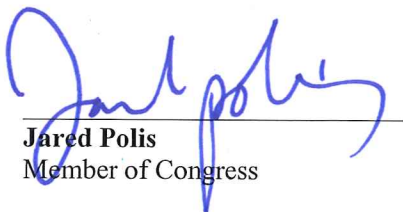
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress




John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



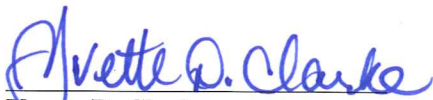
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



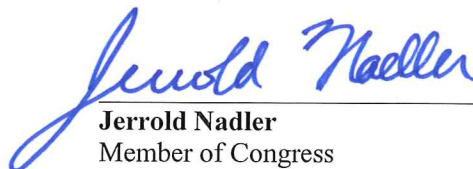
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



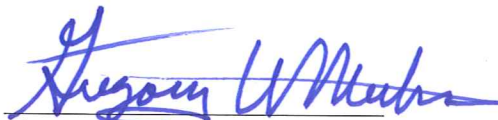
André Carson
Member of Congress



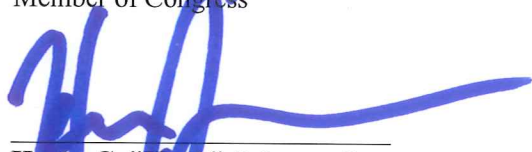
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



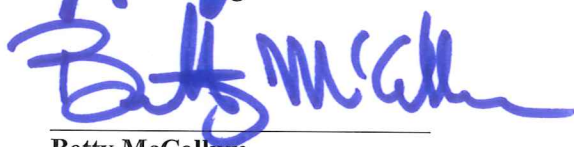
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.
Member of Congress



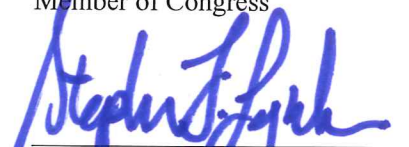
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



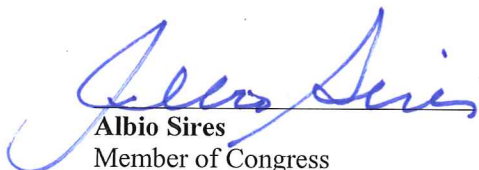
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



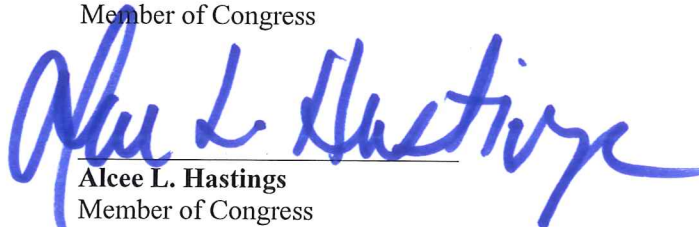
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



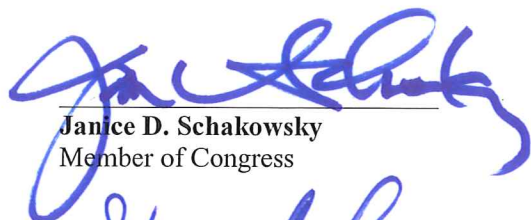
Al Green
Member of Congress



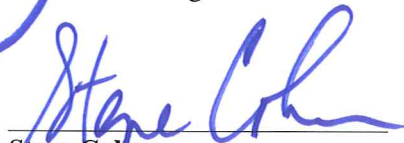
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



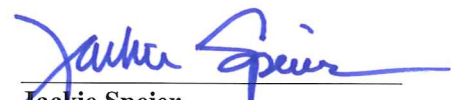
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



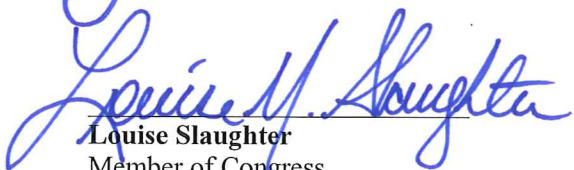
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



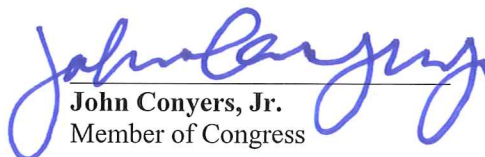
Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress



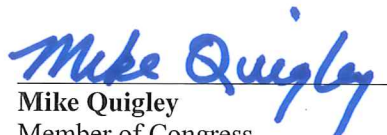
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



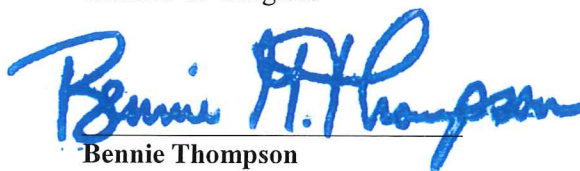
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



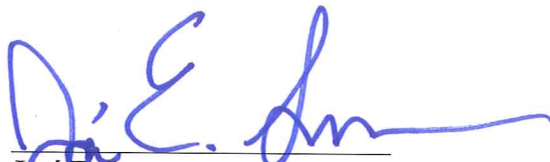
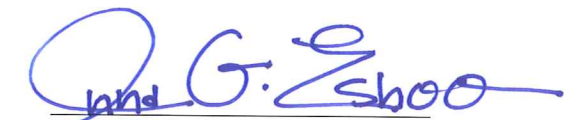

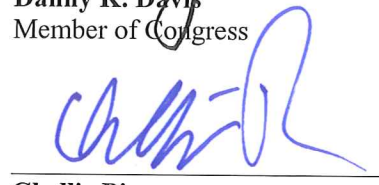
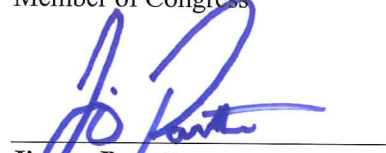
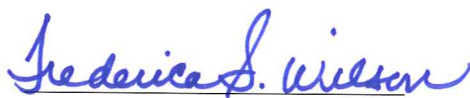



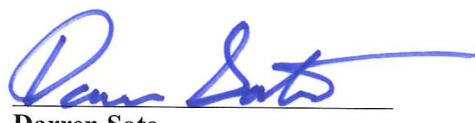
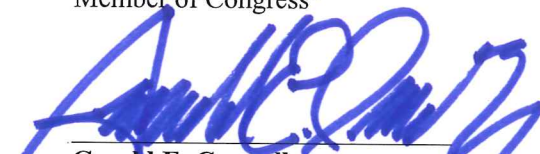
Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress

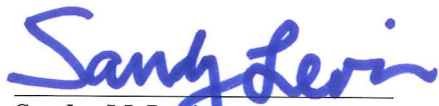


Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

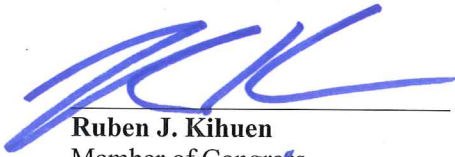

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress
Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress
John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress
David E. Price
Member of Congress
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress
Darren Soto
Member of Congress
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



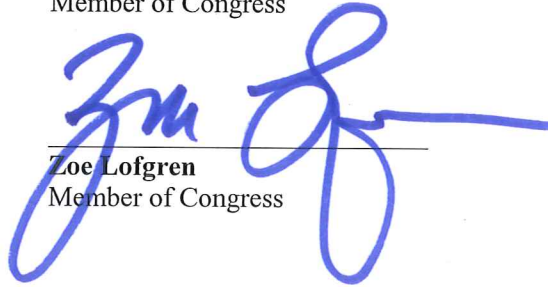
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



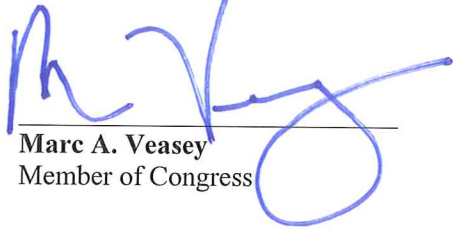
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress